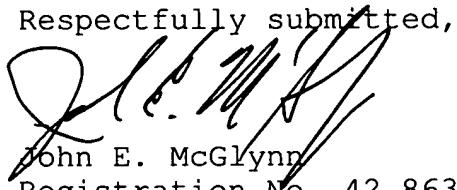


REMARKS

A speedy and favorable first office action is respectfully solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,



John E. McGlynn
Registration No. 42,863

Date: 3/15/01

WOODCOCK WASHBURN KURTZ
MACKIEWICZ & NORRIS LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 568-3100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 3, 5, and 7 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of [set of] processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads comprises the step of processing the financial data to derive values for at least one of the following searchable parameters: Black-Scholes ratio; option volume percentage; implied volatility; percentage to double; industry groupings; recommended listings; and percentage return on an option spread.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to execute one of the set of option spreads [a particular option strategy]; and

forwarding said request to execute one of the set of option spreads [a particular option strategy] to a brokerage computer system operable to execute trades on stocks and stock options, wherein said request [to execute a particular option strategy] entails executing trades on a plurality of stock options.

7. (Amended) The method of claim [1] 6, wherein said step of formatting a listing of option spreads comprises the step of

formatting a chain of option spreads [strategies], said chain of option spreads including a list of option spreads having options expiring in the same month.

Claims 11 through 29 have been added per this Preliminary Amendment.